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IN THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1-16 as follows.

A status of the claims is provided below.

1. (Currently amended) A sanding machine having oscillation drive means ~~(3, 4)~~ for setting an abrasive ~~(1)~~ in an oscillating sanding movement, ~~characterized by comprising~~ an activating device ~~(7)~~ having a multiplicity of activating regions ~~(8)~~ triggered in such a way that various regions of the abrasive ~~(1)~~ are alternately activated independently of the oscillating sanding movement.
2. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the activating regions ~~(8)~~ are brought into use asynchronously relative to the oscillating sanding movement.
3. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~either of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the activating device ~~(7)~~ can be moved transversely to ~~the~~ a feed direction ~~(17)~~ of the workpiece ~~(6)~~ to be sanded.
4. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the activating regions ~~(8)~~ of the activating device ~~(7)~~ are raised lamellae arranged on a carrier ~~(11)~~.
5. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier ~~(11)~~ is a plate which can be moved in a reciprocating manner in ~~the~~ a sanding plane transversely to ~~the~~ a feed direction ~~(V)~~ of the workpiece ~~(6)~~.

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6. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier (11) has endless conveying means revolving transversely to ~~the~~ a feed direction (~~V~~) of the workpiece (~~6~~).

7. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the activating regions (~~8~~) extend in ~~the~~ a form of raised lamellae on ~~the~~ a sanding plane diagonally, in a V shape, in a W shape, in a curved manner or so as to be offset one behind the other.

8. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ characterized in that claim 1, further comprising a pressure device having at least one pressure shoe which can be triggered and is arranged between the activating regions (~~8~~) of the activating device (~~7~~) and the abrasive (~~1~~).

9. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the abrasive (~~1~~) is mounted on a retaining device (~~2~~) and the retaining device (~~2~~) is mounted with the oscillation drive means (~~3, 4~~) on a sanding machine frame (~~5~~) in order to set the retaining device (~~2~~), relative to ~~the~~ a sanding machine frame (~~5~~), in a sanding movement oscillating parallel to ~~the~~ a sanding plane, which is defined by ~~the~~ a sanding surface of the abrasive (~~1~~), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the activating device (~~7~~) is coupled to the sanding machine frame (~~5~~) and is uncoupled from the retaining device (~~2~~) at least in one direction of the sanding plane.

10. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, further comprising, ~~characterized in that~~ a plurality of activating devices (~~7~~) ~~are~~ arranged one behind the other in the feed direction (~~V~~).

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11. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10, characterized in that~~ wherein the oscillation drive means (3,4) have rotatably driven eccentric shafts (3a, 3b) which extend vertically to ~~the~~ a sanding plane between the sanding machine frame (5) and the retaining device (2).

12. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising at least one of the eccentric shafts (3a, 3b) is displaceably mounted in one direction of ~~the~~ a sanding plane.

13. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the abrasive (1) is a sanding sheet interchangeably connected to the retaining device (2).

14. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of claims claim 1 to 8,~~ characterized in that wherein the activating device (7) has flexible conduits (18) for receiving a medium, and pressure control means are connected to the conduits (18), medium located in the conduits (18) being pressurized in a pulsating manner by the pressure control means.

15. (Currently amended) The sanding machine as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that claim 1, wherein the abrasive (1) is a revolving endless sanding belt.

16. (Currently amended) A method of sanding a workpiece using a sanding machine as claimed ~~one of the preceding claims in claim 1~~ by oscillating sanding movements, ~~characterized by~~ comprising alternate activation of various activating regions (8) of the abrasive (1) independently of the oscillating sanding movement.